

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Pending Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A form-fill-seal machine comprising:

means for placing product on a first web of packaging film;

means for forming a receptacle having an interior volume and a mouth, with said product in said interior volume and a string zipper comprising first and second flangeless zipper strips installed in said mouth, said first web of packaging film forming at least one wall of said receptacle, a portion of said one wall of said receptacle being joined to a back of a section of said first flangeless zipper strip;

a slider insertion device for inserting sliders on said string zipper after said portion of said one wall has been joined to said back of said section of said first flangeless zipper strip, whereby said joined portion of said one wall passes between said back of said first flangeless zipper strip and a sidewall of said slider; and

means for sealing said receptacle so that ambient air cannot enter said interior volume.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The form-fill-seal machine as recited in claim 1, wherein said receptacle forming means comprise:

means for joining [[a]] said back of [[a]] said section of [[a]] said first flangeless zipper strip of said string zipper to said first web of packaging film along a first longitudinal zone proximal to a first edge thereof; and

means for joining a back of a section of [[a]] said

second flangeless zipper strip of said string zipper to said first web of packaging film along a second longitudinal zone proximal to a second edge thereof.

Claim 3 (Original): The form-fill-seal machine as recited in claim 2, wherein said receptacle forming means further comprise means for folding said first web of packaging film about halfway between said first and second edges.

Claim 4 (Original): The form-fill-seal machine as recited in claim 2, wherein said receptacle forming means further comprise means for aligning said first edge with a predetermined portion of said first flangeless zipper strip before said first web is joined to said first flangeless zipper strip.

Claim 5 (Original): The form-fill-seal machine as recited in claim 2, wherein said receptacle forming means further comprise means for trimming said first edge after said first web is joined to said first flangeless zipper strip.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The form-fill-seal machine as recited in claim 1, wherein said receptacle forming means comprise:

means for joining ~~one side~~ said back of said section of said first flangeless zipper strip of said string zipper to said first web of packaging film along a longitudinal zone proximal to an edge of said first web; and

means for joining ~~another side~~ a back of a section of said second flangeless zipper strip of said string zipper to a second web of packaging film along a longitudinal zone proximal to an edge of said second web.

Claim 7 (Original): The form-fill-seal machine as recited in claim 6, wherein said receptacle forming means

further comprise means for placing said second web over said first web and means for joining said first and second webs along three sides of said receptacle.

Claim 8 (Original): The form-fill-seal machine as recited in claim 6, wherein said receptacle forming means further comprise means for aligning an edge of said first web with a predetermined portion of said first flangeless zipper strip before said first web is joined to said first flangeless zipper strip.

Claim 9 (Original): The form-fill-seal machine as recited in claim 6, wherein said receptacle forming means further comprise means for trimming an edge of said first web after said first web is joined to said first flangeless zipper strip.

Claim 10 (Original): The form-fill-seal machine as recited in claim 1, further comprising means for forming pockets in said first web at spaced intervals therealong, said products being placed in said pockets.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A method of making reclosable packages, comprising the following steps:

placing product on a first web of packaging film;

forming a receptacle having an interior volume and a mouth, with said product in said interior volume and a string zipper comprising first and second flangeless zipper strips installed in said mouth, said first web of packaging film forming at least one wall of said receptacle, a portion of said one wall of said receptacle being joined to a back of a section of said first flangeless zipper strip;

inserting sliders on said string zipper after said portion of said one wall has been joined to said back of said

section of said first flangeless zipper strip, whereby said joined portion of said one wall passes between said back of said first flangeless zipper strip and a sidewall of said slider; and

sealing said receptacle so that ambient air cannot enter said interior volume.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The method as recited in claim 11, wherein said receptacle forming step comprises:

joining [[a]] said back of [[a]] said section of [[a]] said first flangeless zipper strip of said string zipper to said first web of packaging film along a first longitudinal zone proximal to a first edge thereof; and

joining a back of a section of [[a]] said second flangeless zipper strip of said string zipper to said first web of packaging film along a second longitudinal zone proximal to a second edge thereof.

Claim 13 (Original): The method as recited in claim 12, wherein said receptacle forming step further comprises the step of folding said first web of packaging film about halfway between said first and second edges.

Claim 14 (Original): The method as recited in claim 12, wherein said receptacle forming step further comprises the step of aligning said first edge with a predetermined portion of said first flangeless zipper strip before said first web is joined to said first flangeless zipper strip.

Claim 15 (Original): The method as recited in claim 12, wherein said receptacle forming step further comprises the step of trimming said first edge after said first web is joined to said first flangeless zipper strip.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The method as recited in claim 11, wherein said receptacle forming step further comprises the steps of:

joining ~~one side~~ said back of said section of said first flangeless zipper strip of said string zipper to said first web of packaging film along a longitudinal zone proximal to an edge of said first web; and

joining ~~another side~~ a back of a section of said second flangeless zipper strip of said string zipper to a second web of packaging film along a longitudinal zone proximal to an edge of said second web.

Claim 17 (Original): The method as recited in claim 16, wherein said receptacle forming step further comprises the steps of:

placing said second web over said first web; and

joining said first and second webs along three sides of said receptacle.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method as recited in claim 16, wherein said receptacle forming step further comprises the step of aligning an edge of said first web with a predetermined portion of said ~~one side~~ first flangeless zipper strip of said string zipper before said first web is joined to said ~~one side~~ first flangeless zipper strip of said string zipper.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The method as recited in claim 16, wherein said receptacle forming step further comprises the step of trimming an edge of said first web after said first web is joined to said ~~one side~~ first flangeless zipper strip of said string zipper.

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Claim 20 (Original): The method as recited in claim 11, further comprising the step of forming pockets in said first web at spaced intervals therealong, said products being placed in said pockets.

Claims 21-50 (Canceled).